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Dow plummets 247 points

Page 10



Remembering Elvis

Pages 4, 12



Border policemen admit to abuse

Page 2

Index

- Business 10
- Crossword 11
- Movies/TV 11
- Opinion 6
- Science 5
- Sports 8

Delegation returns: 'Syria ready for peace'

By LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

A delegation of Israeli Arabs returned from its week-long visit to Syria on Friday and said at Ben-Gurion Airport that Syria is ready for peace, but sees little chance of reaching it under the Netanyahu government.

The 42-member delegation faced strong criticism on its return for the radical pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel statements some members made in Syria.

Labor Party MK Sallah Tarif stressed that in his meetings with President Hafez Assad and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa it was clear that Syria wanted peace but they did not think they would be able to achieve that goal with Netanyahu. Abdel Wahab Darawshe, leader of Israel's Arab

Democratic Party, said that "the Syrians let us know they were very frustrated with Netanyahu's government, and are not hopeful that Netanyahu would be flexible enough to be a true negotiating partner."

MK Nawaf Masalha said Sharaa suggested he was interested in renewing talks, and that the Syrian leader told him that "it would be a miracle if Netanyahu were to sign a peace with Syria, but in the last century we have had a few miracles."

A government spokesman responded that Netanyahu was "ready and willing to sit down and negotiate peace without any prior preconditions."

Tarif said that the contents of a letter written by Labor leader Ehud Barak had been delivered to Assad. But he wouldn't say whether he brought back a response.

Tarif asserted that the fact that the trip had taken

place was its main significance. Tarif, a Druse, is a reserve captain in the IDF. "If I was there, that says it all," he said.

The delegation was also the first of Israeli rep-

IAF hits bases in Lebanon, Page 2

resentatives, Jewish or Arab, to hold high-level meetings with Syrian leaders. A small Israeli Arab delegation went to Syria in 1994 to pay respects to Assad after his son Basil died in a car accident. MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe told reporters the criticism against him in Israel was unjustified.

His call at a refugee camp for the full return of Palestinians to Jerusalem provoked angry condemnations from right and left-wing Knesset members last week.

"It was a mission of goodwill with a message of peace and that's what we delivered," Darawshe said. "We were all very happy with the visit." Police complaints have been filed against some delegates and there have also been calls to lift some of their Parliamentary immunity.

Tarif said he had been told by non-official sources in Syria that three Israeli soldiers missing since the 1982 Sultan Yakub battle in Lebanon were buried in the Jewish cemetery in Damascus.

Yona Baumei, whose son Zecharia is one of those missing, said that the International Red Cross had disproved that information several

years ago after examining the graves.

One grave turned out to contain the body of a fourth soldier, Zohar Lipshitz, who was killed in Lebanon. These remains were returned to Israel two years later and reburied in Holon.

Baumei said "the other bodies were those of Arabs. That means that my son is still considered missing."

Masalha said he also met with Syrian Major General Salah Abd Hai, who told him that as a PLO commander during the Lebanon war, he was involved in the capture of several Israeli servicemen still considered missing by Israel.

Masalha said Abd Hai told him some of the servicemen were buried in the Damascus Jewish cemetery. Abd Hai would not say if any of the others were alive or where they were, he said.

Arafat says Palestinians would scrap Oslo if necessary

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's rejection yesterday of Israel's "dictates" that he dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in the areas under his control was dismissed by government officials as mere rhetoric and unworthy of a formal response.

Arafat also said Israel's economic sanctions, particularly the withholding of \$70 million in tax, customs and VAT rebates, are meant to "humiliate the Palestinian people, starve the Palestinian people and make them kneel."

However, he said, "the Palestinian people will not kneel to anyone but God," adding: "The siege will not break us."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu "should learn from others and know who the Palestinian people are. He should know who is talking to."

Arafat said the Palestinian people are willing to give up the achievement of the peace accords and return to the hardships of the past if necessary. "We are willing to wipe it all out and start anew."

His remarks were made to a gathering of journalists and intellectuals in Nabulus.

Declaring that the peace process is a "dangerous turn," Arafat said he intends to convene a conclave on Wednesday in which all the political factions in the autonomous areas would be represented.

Arafat told his audience that "we reject the Israeli demands that we act against our brethren and do not intend to accept dictates on this from anyone."

Arafat switched his theme from indignant protest to sarcastic ridicule by referring to Israel as "greater Micronesia."

"The world responded to [Har Homa] in the United Nations by a majority of 134 to three countries: Micronesia, greater Micronesia [Israel], and America," Arafat said, referring to the April 25 General Assembly resolution condemning the construction at Har Homa. The same three countries voted against a similar resolution again in July.

Arafat hailed the Palestinian Police's arrest of three car thieves and their prompt conviction by a Palestinian court for the murder of taxi driver Shmuel Ben-Baruch.

"We implement Palestinian law," he said, "but not the dictates. This is the main basis we had agreed upon with the Israelis and the Americans before."

Spokesmen for the Prime Minister's Office and Foreign Ministry were instructed not to comment about any of the chairman's statements.

A concurrent call for a boycott of Israeli products reportedly made by Arafat's economic adviser, Khaled Islam, also did not evoke an official reaction.

Cab driver found slain

Three Palestinians convicted for the murder

After hours of intensive investigation by security forces and the Palestinian Police, the body of taxi driver Shmuel Ben-Baruch of Jerusalem was found in a cistern in Jericho early yesterday morning.

Ben-Baruch, who had been reported missing Friday morning, was murdered by Palestinians who had stolen his cab and sold it to a "chop shop" near the Palestinian-controlled city for NIS 7,000.

Three Palestinians, who were known to deal in stolen cars, were tried and convicted of the murder by a Palestinian security court yesterday. Two were sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor, and the third, a minor, to 15 years in prison.

Some observers said that the three were tried and sentenced so quickly to head off an Israeli request for their extradition. However, both Science Minister Michael Eitan and David Bar-Ilan, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's communications director, said that the Oslo Accords do not prevent Israel from seeking their extradition, even if they are in a Palestinian prison.

Judea and Samaria police chief Cmdr. Yossi Sidbon described the murder as "criminal," and not a terrorist act. Ben-Baruch's wife Betty expressed anger at this, saying: "If they just wanted his money, they would have taken it and let him live."

The IDF sealed off the Jericho area yesterday and set up roadblocks to check all cars coming in and out of the city.

Ben-Baruch, who is survived by his wife and four children, is to be buried at 1 p.m. today in Jerusalem's Har Hamenuhot cemetery. Betty Ben-Baruch told Israel Radio that ironically, in recent years he had become more and more sympathetic to the Palestinian cause.

"I want the Palestinian people to know that he loved Arabs, and I hope that their conscience will not allow them to kill again," she said.

Ben-Baruch, who worked for the Semadar taxi company in the capital's German Colony, called his wife on his cellular phone after midnight Thursday and told her he would be home shortly.

When he had not returned by Friday morning, his family notified police, who began searching for the taxi.

Several hours later, police, who had checked records of the Cellcom phone company, discovered that the call Ben-Baruch made to his wife had been transmitted via the company's relay station at Kibbutz Beit Ha'arava, southeast of Jericho. On this basis, Judea and Samaria police were informed, and were the Palestinian Police. The two forces, along with soldiers and volunteers, began searching roads and wadis in the area.

At about 5:15 Friday afternoon, the Palestinian Police informed their Israeli counterparts that they had found the taxi near the Akbat Jabbar refugee camp in southern Jericho, a site known as a place where stolen cars are dismantled. The blood-stained cab was taken to a police lab in Jerusalem.

The search then focused in



Ala Hourri (right), Abdel Ryzak (center), and Iyad Sabab stand before a Palestinian security court in Jericho yesterday. They were convicted of the murder of taxi driver Shmuel Ben-Baruch. (Picture of taxi, Page 2)

Jericho itself. The Palestinian Police said they arrested nearly all suspected stolen car dealers and interrogated them.

After midnight, the Palestinians informed the Israelis that they had three suspects, one of whom had confessed to the murder, and had shown them the empty cistern, in the Hadawa neighborhood in the city's restaurant district, into which he had thrown Ben-Baruch's body.

Upon receiving the information, soldiers, accompanied by members of the Megilot Regional Council's rescue unit, went to the cistern. A rescue unit member went into the cistern and found Ben-Baruch's body. He had been stabbed in the neck with a screwdriver and struck on the head with a rock, Channel 1 reported. The

body was taken to the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir for an autopsy.

At around noon yesterday, a Palestinian security court in Jericho convicted Abdel Ryzak, 20, Ala Hourri, 19, and Iyad Abu Sabab, 17, of the murder. Ryzak and Hourri were sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor, and Abu Sabab to 15 years.

The head of the Jericho area's District Coordinating Office, Lt.-Col. Pauli, said yesterday that the Palestinian Police performance in the search for Ben-Baruch "was a model of cooperation between the two sides."

He noted that senior Palestinian security officers, including Jihril Rajoub, Amin Hindi, and Tawfik Tirawi, were involved in the

search, demonstrating the seriousness with which the Palestinians related to the case.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani also praised the Palestinian cooperation, though he added: "In this instance, it seems to me it is easier to cooperate because here we are talking about -- as it appears now -- car thieves who were motivated by money."

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office noted that the quick capture of the murderers proved what the Palestinian Authority can do, when it wants to.

"This is an example of what we expect the PA to do in the future in all security cases," a source said.

Bar-Ilan, however, said that "the speedy capture of the murderers is reminiscent of the case of

the Tzur family [Ita Tzur and her son Ephraim, shot dead as they were driving near Beit El in December], in that the murderers were tried, convicted, and imprisoned, and after a few months they escaped through a bathroom window. I hope that this case ends differently."

"But above all, I hope that the Palestinians are not confusing the nabbing of murderers and car thieves with acting against the terrorist infrastructure, as US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said several days ago that they must."

Meretz MK Ron Cohen demanded that PA Chairman Yasser Arafat commit himself to not pardoning the murderers for any reason. (News agencies)

Graves marked with names of Yemenite children found empty

Investigators have opened several graves of Yemenite Jewish babies believed buried in the 1950s and found they were empty. Channel 1 reported last night.

The discovery seems to support decades-old claims that Yemenite children were taken from their parents for adoption, and their parents told that they had died.

The government appointed a commission to investigate the claims in 1995, and the panel, chaired by former Supreme Court Justice Yehuda Cohen, announced earlier this month it may summon public figures who held key positions at the time to help them resolve the mystery.

The empty graves were opened at the request of family members, in the commission's presence, at the end of last week at Tel Aviv's Kiryat Shaul cemetery. Rabbi Ya'acov Rova, the halachic adviser to Dan Region cemeteries and Avraham Finkelstein, the director of the cemetery, were also present.

The event was filmed by Channel 1 and

broadcast last night. Parents who were told 40 years ago that their children had died were shown wiping away their tears.

Wooden signs at the supposed gravesites bore the names Ruti Babu, Ruti Cohen, Reuven Rafaelo, and Moshe Mishraki.

The children were hospitalized when only a few months old. Their parents were told later that the children died but never saw their bodies or a death certificate.

"Now there is no doubt that this was an affair of planned fraud, in which funerals were staged and evidence was falsified," said Ora Shifris, a spokeswoman for the Yemenite families.

Knesset members responded with angry calls for further investigation. MK Ran Cohen of Meretz asked the attorney-general to have police investigate the children's whereabouts. MK Shmaryahu Ben-Tzur of the National Religious Party urged the government to step up its probe by appointing a new panel with wider authorities.

In all, the Cohen Commission said August

7 it had probed 687 cases of missing children from the 1948 to 1954 period, and that 73% of cases were Yemenite children. The commission was also investigating a possible link between 830 mysterious adoption cases and missing Yemenite children, the report said.

Families say that at least half the missing children were younger than six months when they disappeared, during the period of mass immigration from Yemen and other Middle Eastern countries. In more than half the cases, the children went missing after being hospitalized for malnutrition or disease.

Camp officials have claimed that many babies died of illnesses, acknowledging that there was some disorganization owing to the impoverished circumstances of the immigrant tent camps.

Two other commissions have investigated some of the cases of missing Yemenite children, but families have dismissed their inconclusive findings as a whitewash. (News agencies)

CPI goes up 1%; Inflation at 10.5%

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) went up by 1 percent in July, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced on Friday.

As a result, wage-earners are to receive a 2.4% increment in their October salaries.

Housing prices were the biggest contributor to the index, going up 2.5% mainly due to the devaluation of the shekel against the dollar in June. The overall index without housing would have risen 0.5% in July.

The index was also boosted by higher prices of food, health, education, culture, and entertainment. The price of cigarettes increased 4.4%.

If not for a seasonal drop in the price of fruits and vegetables (3.1%), the index would have gone up by 1.2%.

The wholesale price index rose 0.9%. Consumer prices have risen

6% since the start of the year, and the annual inflation rate now stands at about 10.5%.

The July CPI was at the low end of economists' expectations.

Economists had said a high CPI would prompt Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel to raise interest rates at the end of the month.

Frenkel slashed the base rate by 1.2 percentage points to 12.7% in mid-June and has held them at that level, despite a high June CPI.

Economists said they expected Frenkel to raise rates by 0.3 to 0.5 percentage points.

The Histadrut slammed the government over the July index, saying it reflects a failed economic policy.

The Histadrut is expected to declare a general labor dispute today to protest government plans for structural reforms in the economy.



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NEWS

in brief

Infant burns to death in Beduin camp

A 5-month-old infant burned to death early yesterday morning when his family's shack in the encampment of the Abu Suleb Beduin tribe near Dimona caught fire. The father of the family awakened to discover the fire at about 4:30 a.m. He immediately roused his wife and four other children and got them out of the shack, but when he picked up the baby, he discovered he was dead. The fire was attributed to a short circuit in an electrical appliance. *Tim*

Two killed on roads

Amir Zainev, 20, of Jaffa, was killed in a traffic accident in Tel Aviv on Friday night. Zainev and his brother apparently were speeding on their motorcycles on the Ayalon Freeway when Zainev lost control and was thrown from his bike. Also in Tel Aviv, a Holon man, 75, was fatally injured when his bicycle was struck by a motorcycle. He died shortly thereafter in Ichilov Hospital. *Tim*

Palestinians condemn house demolitions

Palestinians yesterday condemned a wave of Israeli demolitions of Arab houses in east Jerusalem and the West Bank this month as a violation of the Oslo Accords. Ahmed Korei, speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, urged a halt to the razings which he said caused "excessive humanitarian harm" to Palestinians. *Reuters*

Woman drowns in Kinneret

A 20-year-old woman drowned when she fell off a rubber boat off Migdal Beach on Lake Kinneret yesterday afternoon. Her husband also fell off, but was rescued and taken to Poriya Hospital, where he was reported in good condition. *Tim*

Israel releases Palestinian policeman

A Palestinian policeman, arrested on Thursday on suspicion of firing at an IDF patrol near Gush Katif in Gaza, was released with an apology on Friday. Immediately after the arrest, the Palestinian Police filed a complaint with the District Coordinating Office, saying the policemen had been firing at fleeing Palestinians.

Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who toured Gaza on Friday, said the soldiers had acted correctly. But, he added, every event must be coordinated with the Palestinian Police in order to prevent unnecessary confrontations. *Tim*

Family suspected of murdering Rahat woman

Police are investigating whether Olah Abied, 20, was murdered by her relatives. Her mother found her body in their Rahat home on Friday afternoon, and investigators said there were signs of violence on her body. Two of Abied's relatives were arrested on Friday on suspicion of murder. *Tim*

2 border police confess to beatings

Border policeman Nissim Adotlar, 20, said that he and fellow officer Shai Astmakan, 22, have confessed to and expressed regret for brutally abusing two Palestinians.

Yehoshua Gold Appel, head of the National Police Investigation Unit, said that he has evidence that they and a third suspect had committed similar crimes in the past.

On Friday, Jerusalem Magistrate's Court remanded Astmakan and Adotlar for three more days. A third border policeman involved in the incident turned himself in to police over the weekend.

A soldier who witnessed the incident is to testify today.

The four had picked up Ahmed Moussa, 19, and his cousin Mahmoud Ghneim, 27, both of Kafar al-Hadi, near Beit Safafa, and taken them to a spot near the Beit Shmesh forest on Tuesday, according to Jerusalem Police Investigations head Hori Zayid. The three then beat them, seriously injuring them and ignoring Moussa's pleas for mercy because he has heart problems.

The border policemen then tied one of the men to a jeep by his feet and dragged him for several hundred meters, Zayid said.



An official leads border policemen Nissim Adotlar (middle) and Shai Astmakan (right) away from Jerusalem Magistrate's Court after their remand hearing on Friday. (Brian Hender)

Astmakan also threatened to shoot to death one of the Palestinians when he didn't respond to Astmakan's order to stand up after being beaten. The border policemen then abandoned the two men in the forest. Moussa and Ghneim made their way to the main road, attracted the attention of passersby, and were taken to the hospital. (16m)

4 yeshiva students remanded over gas station attendant slaying

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on Friday extended by four days the remand of four yeshiva students suspected of killing an Arab gas station attendant.

Mahmoud Abu Sara, 74, was killed Tuesday when he tried to stop the students who drove out of the Sheikh Jarrah gas station in east Jerusalem without paying, police said.

According to witnesses, Abu Sara hung onto the car's open window, but was dragged several hundred meters before being knocked off as it passed close to another car.

Judge Yehezkel Barkai called the incident "grave" and said it appeared that "a man was killed for no reason... by youths who possibly did not realize what the terrible consequences of their actions would be."

Prosecutors are considering charging the students with murder, a police spokesman said. He said that police will ask the court tomorrow to refuse bail and order the four detained until trial.

Nafali Wertzberger, attorney for the student who drove the car, said his client tried to get away from the gas station because he feared they would come under attack. "That is what the other passengers yelled to him. It was late at night and they were in a hostile neighborhood," Wertzberger told Israel Radio.

IAF hits Palestinian bases in Lebanon

Air force fighter-bombers yesterday launched two strikes against a Palestinian terrorist base south of Beirut, Lebanese security officials said.

The strikes, which occurred within two hours of each other, were the second attack in eight days on the hilltop base at Naameh, 16 kilometers south of the capital.

The planes fired missiles at a depot of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

The IDF Spokesman said all planes returned safely to their base and the pilots reported direct hits on the target.

An Associated Press photographer who saw the strikes said there were no casualties.

The target appeared to be the entrance to concrete tunnels in which the PFLP-GC is believed to store weapons and equipment.

The PFLP-GC issued no immediate comment on the raids. (News agencies)

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW MICHAL YUDELMAN

The weekend media focused on US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit, due next month, and its political implications.

This will not be a relaxed visit of politeness, predicts Mo'ariv's Ben Caspit, but a tight and stiff shuttle. Albright will arrive with a plan, a schedule, demands, defined conditions, and an American ultimatum.

In other words, he writes, Albright is coming to make order. Her visit is to set the agenda of the final status negotiations, create their apparatus, define the format, conditions, schedule, goals, and required achievements.

Netanyahu won't like the proposal which Albright is bringing, says Uzi Benziman in Ha'arets. It will include deciding on a six-month period for the final status negotiations. During this period, Israel will avoid "significant" construction in the settlements and will halt the building on Har Homa to a "significant" extent.

These commitments will not be publicly announced by the government, but appear in letters which the Americans will transfer to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

If this plan is put into effect, Netanyahu will have to deal at the end of it with the American demand to transfer 15 percent of the West Bank to the Palestinians as the second "pullback" and implement the first pullback, altogether giving the Palestinians 42 percent of the West Bank.

Jewish morality
What is Jewish morality, asks Nahum Barnea in Yediot Aharonot, relating the tale of Yehezkel Shemesh-Halevy, whom the closure prevented from paying wages to his Palestinian worker, a father of 14.

Shemesh-Halevy appealed to Meretz leader Yossi Sarid for help, not wanting to violate the Torah law prohibiting withholding a worker's wages. He wrote of his efforts, thwarted by the military authorities, to transfer the money to the worker, stressing the worker deserves this money by right and no man has the right to deprive him of it.

Sarid made a few phone calls. Barnea writes, and as far as he knows the money was transferred. But the question remains open.

"Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, for instance, is a very religious Jew, who cuts meetings short to fulfill his obligations to his maker, who would not miss one word of prayer. But Neeman froze all the Palestinians' funds which the Israeli government holds in trust for them. He gave reasons, too: I won't send money, said he, to finance Arafat's terrorism. And the question is, whose morality is more Jewish, the crafty lawyer Neeman's, or the simple window-maker Yehezkel Shemesh-Halevy."

Virtual reality
"Binyamin Netanyahu is a prime minister of virtual reality," states Maj.-Gen. (res.) Oren Shabor, who was forced to leave the army after being caught leaving Shimoo Peres's home and is now speaking out for "the generals who cannot speak, and Netanyahu is shooting them in the back."

Shabor tells Yediot Aharonot's Yael Gvirtz that "the peace process today is not conducted by experts, but amateurs. Each one has another job: One runs Mifal Hapayis; another is cabinet secretary; and the third is a lawyer. That is not serious..."

"IDF generals no longer have the backing of the political level and prime minister, on the contrary, Netanyahu is the one leading the scandalous attacks on them," says Shabor, noting that the open communication between him and the military has been replaced by deep paranoia and witch hunting.

"The head of the General Security Service, the chief of general staff, and the generals are treated as though they were clerks, rather than professionals. They are presented as crooks, who are pressuring the cabinet by means of media manipulations."

Lazy bums
The media takes a hard look at the haredi parties, which commentators say are dragging society back from liberalism and enlightenment to religious coercion.

Gideon Samet in Ha'arets blasts the "weak-kneed police, which act as though the haredim are the lords of the land: They beat up the Conservatives praying at the Western Wall without any justification, except for that murky reflex identifying the haredim - some of whom abhor and despise the state - with the government, authority and the power."

"The yeshivot have turned into a shelter for lazy bums," states Prof. Yehuda Friedlander, rector of Bar-Ilan University, in an interview with Yehuda Koren of Yediot Aharonot.

Friedlander notes the religious-Zionist education system is becoming increasingly haredi, and says the heads of haredi yeshivot told him explicitly: "We take anyone, even if he has a head of straw, just to save him from the clutches of the IDF."

Consequently, the standard of studies has deteriorated greatly and a new phenomenon has been born: the eternal yeshiva student. "And who pays for this? The Treasury, which finances the yeshivot with larger budgets than it gives the universities."

Amir Drori, head of the Antiquities Authority, comes out strongly against the haredim and their war against science, archeology, and development, noting that two thirds of the road, construction, and development projects

have been stopped this year. "From the anthropologic point of view, we're living in a Khomeinistic state," he tells Ma'ariv's Ben Caspit.

He notes that "all the haredi quarters are built on graves, but then they don't utter a peep. Mea She'arim, Bnei Brak, Ramat Shlomo, all these places have burial sites. In Bnei Brak, there's a religious school build on a cemetery. There were no demonstrations. They only come [to demonstrate] where it suits them."

Less education, more values
Ho'arets's Hanna Kim reveals the extent of the budget cuts in secular education, while the haredi education system and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer's Administration for Values Education remain intact.

The Knesset Finance Committee last week decided to slash NIS 126 million from the Education Ministry budget and NIS 200m. from the long school day budget, in addition to the NIS 725m. already cut from the ministry at the beginning of the year. The committee also decided to cut at least NIS 400m. more from the education budget in 1998.

This is certainly a new order of government priorities, notes Kim, observing that "Hammer can boast a brilliant achievement: He has succeeded in one year in returning the Education Ministry to the rejected, dark, hopeless, and sour status it had during the long years in which Hammer was its minister under the previous Likud governments."



Ben-Baruch's taxi

Police officers examine the trunk of Shmuel Ben-Baruch's blood-stained taxi, which was found Friday in Jericho's Akbat Jabbar refugee camp, where it was apparently slated to be stripped for parts. Ben-Baruch's body was found early yesterday morning in Jericho. (AP)

US upset with delay on PA funds

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The US said on Friday it is disappointed at Israel's delay in releasing funds to the Palestinian Authority, but expects the dispute to be resolved within a matter of days.

Israel withheld the tax money and customs duties after two Palestinian suicide bombers killed 14 people in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market on July 30. Palestinian leaders say it is a form of collective punishment. State Department spokesman

James Rubin, asked if US envoy Dennis Ross felt the Israelis had reneged on a promise to release the money, restated the US position that withholding the funds and tight restrictions on the movement of Palestinians are "unwise" and "counterproductive."

"Ambassador Ross did not indicate to me any particular feeling of being doublecrossed," he added. "But hopefully with a day or two, when we start to see some actions, this will become moot because Prime Minister [Binyamin]

Netanyahu himself has said that with actions will go easing of these measures."

Jordanians, Palestinians set up Jerusalem land firm

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen said on Friday they had set up a multi-million dollar firm to buy and develop Arab properties in eastern Jerusalem.

The idea behind the formation of the offshore holding company, registered in the British Virgin Islands as Jerusalem Development and Investment Company (JEDICO), is to try to preempt purchases of Arab property by Israeli and American Jews.

They said JEDICO shareholders chose a seven-member board of directors to serve a two-year tenure at its founding meeting on Thursday.

Chaired by Abdul Majid Shoman, chairman of Jordan's leading Arab Bank, the board includes some of the most influential members of the expatriate Palestinian business community.

Board member and Jordanian businessman Munib Masri, said he expected JEDICO to start operations within a month.

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LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

Reception in Appreciation of Libitrom Activists

The Libi Fund recently held a reception, to show its appreciation of the efforts of those who contributed to the success of the Libitrom fund-raising campaign, conducted with the help of regional radio stations. The reception, which was held at the Dan Panorama Hotel, was attended by the Director-General of the Second Channel, Mr. Nahman Shal, the Chairman of the Libi Fund, General (Res.) Danny Matt, and the Chairman of the Association of Regional Radio Station, Mr. Danny Nishlis. The guests were given information on the results of this successful campaign, the proceeds of which, NIS4 m., are being used to combat road accidents involving soldiers on leave.



The Libi Chairman handing a shield of appreciation to Mr. Danny Nishlis, Chairman of the Association of Regional Radio Stations in Israel. LIBI, 17 Rehov Ariana, Tel Aviv 61070, Tel. 03-696-8206, 03-697-5183, 03-698-5610; Fax. 03-697-6743



Cambodian refugees
Cambodian refugees press up against a razor wire fence yesterday at the Thai-Cambodian border near O'Smach, Cambodia. Heavy fighting between rival Cambodian forces has forced refugees to flee to the border for safety. O'Smach is located 340 kilometers northeast of Bangkok, Thailand.

Clinton lawyers oppose broad query, deposition of president

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Attorneys for President Clinton are again asking a federal judge to dismiss Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit, while also opposing a broad inquiry now into the president's alleged sexual exploits.

In a federal court filing Friday, Clinton's attorneys also sought to prevent, for now, the president from being deposed under oath. His lawyers argued that any discovery in the civil lawsuit should be limited at the outset to "non-party" testimony on what, if anything, happened between Clinton and Jones, and whether it resulted in her being transferred to a different state job.

Jones' lawyers, trying to establish a pattern of behavior by Clinton, want to include in their initial questioning of witnesses other allegations of sexual overtures by Clinton.

A pretrial conference is scheduled for Friday to consider an exchange of evidence by the parties, and set parameters for discovery — the deposing of witnesses and the collection of documents. US District

Judge Susan Webber Wright has said she may set a trial date then.

But Clinton's attorneys renewed their request for the lawsuit to be dismissed on the basis that Clinton's alleged actions — even if they occurred — did not constitute sexual harassment.

The president's legal brief also rebuffed claims that he damaged Jones' reputation.

"The complaint does not contain a single factual allegation that he published any defamatory information about (Jones) to anyone while he was governor," the filing said.

Jones' lawsuit claims that Clinton, then Arkansas' governor, propositioned her in 1991 in a Little Rock hotel room. After she rejected Clinton, she argues, she was placed in a dead-end state job.

Clinton adamantly denied Jones' claim in a legal response July 3 and said the suit was intended to damage him politically. The president did not repeat those denials in Friday's 30-page filing, but rather sought to pick apart the claims, aiming to show they did not meet the legal standard for harassment.

A separate five-page filing asked Wright to limit the initial questioning of witnesses to "core issues regarding the alleged incident at the Excelsior Hotel on May 8, 1991, and any resulting adverse job impact (Jones) asserts she suffered."

Should the questioning reveal no harassment, Clinton's attorneys could ask the judge to dismiss part or all of the lawsuit and perhaps avoid further interviews involving other women, such as former White House employee Kathleen E. Willey.

Jones' lawyers have subpoenaed Willey as part of the effort to show a pattern of improper behavior by Clinton. Willey reportedly told a colleague that Clinton made sexual advances toward her.

Jones says that Clinton pulled her toward him, exposed himself and asked for oral sex while he was Arkansas governor and she was a state employee.

Clinton's lawyers said that such actions, if true, would not constitute harassment because Clinton is not alleged to have pushed the issue further.

Former Mir commander defends performance

By ADAM TANNER

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Vasily Tsibilyev, the former Mir commander whose reputation was challenged over the accident that crippled the space station in orbit, defended his performance yesterday and said a cash crunch posed the real threat to Russia's space program.

Tsibilyev, who returned to earth on Thursday after six months in orbit, has been blamed in Russian media reports for the collision on June 25 between Mir and a supply ship. Tsibilyev had been manually docking the Progress cargo ship when the accident, the worst in Mir's 11-year history, happened.

An official commission has yet to reach a conclusion on what caused the collision.

"Unfortunately many things we need on the station just aren't there," Tsibilyev told reporters at Star City, the cosmonauts' training center outside Moscow.

"It all derives from earth, from our economy, our affairs, our poor lives. Because even that equipment needed to live aboard the station that we requested to be sent... it just doesn't exist on earth," he said.

"Simply the factories don't work, or have insufficient supplies, or they ask for, excuse me, crazy prices," he said.

Tsibilyev said his monitors had not been working at the time of the collision but he had been confident that the situation could be corrected until the last minute.

After the accident he said the crew risked their lives by sealing

off the punctured Spektr module rather than abandoning ship. "We didn't think about jumping ship, although in principle at that time we were obliged to throw aside everything and race into the (escape) capsule," he said.

"Despite that, we stayed and continued our work."

Other mishaps on Mir in the past six months included a fire, loss of station's orientation, an irregular heartbeat suffered by Tsibilyev and problems with the power and oxygen supplies.

Aboard Mir on Saturday, the current crew of commander Anatoly Solovoyov, flight engineer Pavel Vinogradov and US astronaut Michael Foale were preparing to redock with an old supply module late yesterday.

Police detain 140 en route to banned Hess memorials

BONN (Reuters) — German police played in a tense cat-and-mouse game with neo-Nazis yesterday and detained around 140 extremists suspected of heading for forbidden rallies to mark the 10th anniversary of the death of Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess.

In neighboring Denmark, where freedom of speech laws allow neo-Nazis more scope for public display, about 150 Scandinavians, Germans and Dutch marked Hess's death with a rally in the town of Koege, switching from nearby Roskilde at the last moment to avoid clashes with leftists.

Police in the central German state of Hesse said they took 78 people into temporary custody at traffic checkpoints set up to stop extremists from gathering at Hess rallies over the weekend.

A Hesse police spokesman said officers had seized knives, music cassettes and placards with extremist slogans.

In the eastern state of Thuringia, police detained 60 right-wing extremists for inciting racial hatred and displaying symbols of anti-constitutional organizations.

US boasts largest arms sales

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has emerged as top international arms salesman in 1996, with orders to developing countries making up \$7.3 billion of its \$11.3 billion intake, a government report shows.

Casting in at a distant second was Britain with \$4.8 billion in total international arms sales, followed by Russia with \$4.6 billion, according to a report released this week by the US Congressional Research Service.

The CRS is an independent research arm of Congress that compiles such statistics annually.

"This report shows who the major arms sellers are and who the key players are in the international market," said Richard Grimmett, a CRS defense specialist who authored the report.

Religion grows in Cuba in advance of pope's trip

By ELOY O. AGUILAR

HAVANA (AP) — The curly-haired young man in a white robe was schooled in Cuba's Marxist educational system and taught that the Roman Catholic Church was counter-revolutionary.

But when President Fidel Castro met Pope John Paul II last year and planned the pope's trip to Cuba, 22-year-old Daniel Bruzon began looking at the church in a different way.

Now he is getting ready to be baptized. On a recent Sunday, he wore the white robe of an altar attendant at Havana's Santa Rita Church.

Bruzon, a language student, is the product of a new way tolerance by the government of the Catholic Church in advance of the pope's visit in January.

And he is among a growing number of young Cubans who are turning to religion in times of dire economic conditions and political confusion.

"I had heard bad things about the church all my life," Bruzon said. "Then I saw where Fidel went to the Vatican and met with the pope. I wondered why. What was there about the church?" Bruzon began going to church with friends seven months ago.

"I had a spiritual need that the church satisfied," he

said. "I found peace, understanding, and I found Christ, who loves me."

"My father is a military man," Bruzon said. "When I told him I wanted to join the church, he was surprised, but he did not fight me. He respected my decision. Besides, he knows how stubborn I am."

Most of Cuba's open repression against the Roman Catholic Church has disappeared. Its followers may freely exercise their faith and are no longer barred from membership in the Communist Party.

Bruzon and a friend, Milner Lajonchere, 18, were among the thousands of young Catholics who participated in a recent evangelization campaign distributing copies of the Gospel of St. Mark and talking to people about the church and the pope's trip to Cuba.

In an effort to reach Bruzon and his generation, the church has set its sights on education. To compete with the government for the sympathies of the Cuban people, it will need access to the news media and schools.

There are no Catholic schools in Cuba. There are few priests — 260 for a population of 11 million, compared with 700 in 1959 for half as many people — and the Catholic seminary has only 67 young men preparing for the priesthood.

Turkish troops kill 27 Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP)

— Turkish troops have killed 27 Kurdish guerrillas in anti-rebel offensives in southeast and central Turkey, officials said yesterday.

The governor's office for the southeast region said 26 rebels were killed in fighting near this city, while one other rebel was killed Friday near the central city of Sivas as rebels tried to attack a passenger train at a station, the Anatolia news agency reported.

The foiled attack coincided with the 13th anniversary of the start of a war launched by the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, for autonomy in the southeast. The war has cost 28,000 lives since 1984.

Some 50 fragments of medieval manuscripts are now at the Israel Museum. Sounds dull? Well, they form one of the most exciting and moving exhibitions I have ever seen.

Meir Ronnen
The Jerusalem Post

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studied. Now a selection on loan from Cambridge is on view in Jerusalem. It presents a vivid picture of the spiritual — and not so spiritual — mores and business dealings of a medieval Jewish community.

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20,000 fans remember Elvis

Commemoration marks 20th anniversary of the 'King's' death

By WOODY BARD

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Another year, a bouquet alone might have been enough. But last night was the 20th anniversary of Elvis' death, so she brought a teddy bear and a tender note: "Silver stars fade and die."

Karen Glick came from Champaign, Illinois, almost 650 kilometers away, to honor the King of Rock and Roll. She waited with 20,000 others to file past his grave while his music played in the parking lot and impersonators milled about Graceland, the Memphis mansion where he died.

Glick, 51, was just a kid when she saw Elvis Presley on TV in 1956, lean and sharp, his leg shaking. She was an instant fan.

"Everybody went to school on Monday and nobody could remember his name. But everybody could remember how he moved and jumped around and we thought that was cool," she said.

Fans began lining up hours before Friday night's procession, which was to run into Saturday. It's the crowning event of a weeklong series of concerts, parties and memorials to commemorate Elvis' death on Aug. 16, 1977.

The crowd on Elvis Presley Boulevard was dotted with impersonators and fans sporting sideburns, rhinestone-studded jumpsuits, and jet-black duck-tails.

Bill Rowe, 47, of Dayton, Ohio, was at the head of the line, waiting at Graceland's front gates since Thursday. He refused to doze during the nightlong wait.

"In my mind, that would be disrespectful," he said.

Graceland opened to tourists in 1982 and draws more than 700,000 visitors a year. It supports a sprawling complex of souvenir shops and museums and brings in about \$15 million annually.

Another \$10 million is up for grabs, offered by the makers of a new Elvis documentary to anyone who can produce the man himself.

The makers of "Elvis is Alive (I Swear I Just saw Him Eating a Ding-Dong Outside the Piggly Wiggly)" said they found 253,411 people who claimed to have seen Elvis since his death.

No impersonators — claimants must pass DNA, blood type and voice analysis tests and match dental records and fingerprints of the man born Elvis Aron Presley on Jan. 8, 1935, in East Tupelo, Mississippi, to Gladys and Vernon Presley.

"It was a strange journey we took and in the end, I asked, 'What did we have?', but I think we got within minutes of Elvis," said Robert Diaz Leroy, who directed and starred in the film. "If it's possible that he's still alive, I think we got close."



A teddy bear sits among other items left by fans at the grave of Elvis Presley. (AP)

Every item imaginable

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (Reuters) — Twenty years after his death, Elvis Presley is for sale as never before.

Eat like him? Try the \$2 fried peanut butter and banana sandwich at Rockabilly's Grill across the street from his Graceland mansion.

Dress like him? There's a brown leather aviator's jacket with his gold embroidered signature for \$450, or a black motorcycle jacket for \$395.

Make music like a king? Pick up the \$5,000 Gibson six-string "Elvis Signature Model" acoustic guitar (only 250 made) and run your fingers over a neck inlaid with his name in pearl.

On Friday, thousands of Elvis fans who have descended on Memphis to mark Saturday's 20th anniversary of his death were in a buying frenzy at the official gift shops across the street from Presley's Graceland mansion and in stores nearby.

A \$79.95 (plus tax) "Barbie Loves Elvis" set — she in a pink sweater and black poodle skirt, he in a gold lame jacket — has become one of the event's top sellers. Customers were being limited to five sets per day in an attempt to keep the dolls from being cornered by collectors.

Outside one shop Allan Roth and his wife, on a two-week US visit from Nuremberg, Germany, were in their second day at Graceland, having just

bought a black Elvis commemorative T-shirt and a Tennessee commemorative license plate.

"It's very important if I'm here, I must see this," Roth said.

And there was a seemingly endless array of merchandise to be seen and taken home. Items ranged from a \$1,000 framed 45-rpm vinyl record of "Blue Christmas" and "Santa, Bring My Baby Back," said to be from "Elvis Presley's personal collection," to a guitar-shaped blue plastic fly swatter at \$1.95.

There are blankets, pillows, bathrobes, clocks and tamps with swinging Elvis legs; a list of Elvis shower gels, after shave lotions and body powders, umbrellas, dishes, glassware, watches and crystal glasses.

His records, repackaged and reissued, remain top sellers.

Virtually every book written about Elvis — more no doubt than have written about some US presidents — has been rounded up and put on store shelves.

"Soldier Boy Elvis" goes for \$19.95. For \$17.95, the curious who pick up "Did Elvis Ever Sing in Your Home Town" can find out not only if he did, from 1971 to 1977, but how the weather was that night and what asides he had to say on the stage.

Charles in apparent media competition with Diana

By JILL SERJEANT

LONDON (Reuters) — Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, posed with his two sons for photographers yesterday for a second time, but his aides denied that they were trying to divert attention from Princess Diana's love life.

Charles, who was divorced from Diana a year ago, usually guards his privacy jealously during his annual vacation at Balmoral and seeks to protect their sons from the more unsavory publicity surrounding the marriage breakup.

Royal aides said that by volunteering to pose for photographers there, Charles and the boys would be left in peace for the rest of their break.

"It was an experiment. I am not saying it's setting a precedent. It has worked. We want to work with the media, we will come halfway if you leave them alone," the prince's press spokeswoman Sandy Henney told reporters.

Henney denied the two photo-calls were part of a "charm offensive" by the prince, who faces an uphill task as the next king after opinion polls showed popularity for the monarchy slumping to below 50 percent for the first time.

Henney said Charles, dressed in a green kilt and his sons, Prince William and Harry who posed by a waterfall, were grateful for being left alone since first posing for photographers Tuesday.

"It's meant a lot to them. They have been able to go places and do things they have not been previously able to do," she said.

The aides rejected suggestions



Prince Charles stands with his sons Princes William (left) and Harry during their summer break at Balmoral Castle. (Reuters)

that the photo-call was a bid to dampen the media frenzy over Princess Diana's romance with millionaire Egyptian playboy Dodi Al Fayed.

Diana flew out to Greece over the weekend with a woman friend on her third Mediterranean vacation in two months, leaving behind a breach of contract suit brought against the new man in her life by US model Kelly Fisher.

Fisher claims she was Al Fayed's fiancée until pictures of him kissing Diana appeared in newspapers around the world.

Dodi, son of Harrods owner Mohammed Al Fayed, has denied her claims but the saga looked certain to run with Britain's best-selling Sunday newspaper, the News of the World, promising that Fisher would be telling the tabloid her side of the story.

Shultz remarries

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In a marriage of high society and politics, former Secretary of State George Shultz has wed San Francisco socialite Charlotte Mailliard Swig.

Among the more than 600 guests invited to the Friday night wedding were Gov. Pete Wilson, former first lady Nancy Reagan, former defense secretary Caspar Weinberger, actor Don Johnson and Mayor Willie Brown.

"You know, it's glamour. It's love. It's Charlotte. It's George," said wedding planner Stanlee Gatti, president of the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Shultz, 76, was secretary of state from 1982 to 1989. His wife, Helena Maria Shultz, died at age 80 in 1995. Swig, 63, is twice widowed.

DRIVE CAREFULLY

US announces record burger recall

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The US Agriculture Department on Friday announced the largest recall of US ground beef products in history, giving consumers one more reason to look twice at their burgers before taking a bite.

Hudson Foods Inc., an Arkansas-based meat processor, is voluntarily

recalling at least 544,000 kg. of frozen hamburger nationwide due to possible contamination with a deadly strain of the E. coli bacteria.

The amount is far beyond any previous ground beef recall and 60 times the 9,000 kg that USDA initially said Hudson Foods was recalling. The size of the recall

could continue to mount as USDA investigates the matter.

"It's enough to make somebody a vegetarian," said Michael Jacobson, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest. "Clearly, the company has not been as careful as it should," he said.

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Pediatrics is growing up

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Today's children try to look, dress, talk and behave like adults, but doctors must be careful not to regard them as "small people" who can be treated medically as if they were over 18. Pediatrics, with its growing number of subspecialties, is a medical discipline all its own, with issues, treatments and techniques reserved for babies, children and adolescents.

A major international conference dealing with all these issues was held in Jerusalem last month, bringing hundreds of physicians and other medical personnel from 37 countries, including Israel. Held at the International Convention Center and organized by the Israel Ambulatory Pediatric Association (IAPA), "Pediatrics in the Community: 2000+" was chaired by the IAPA's Dr. Shmuel Gross. Prof. Emanuel Leventhal, chief of pediatrics at Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem, was head of the scientific committee.

"Because of budgetary cuts in funds for health care here and around the world, there is pressure to carry out more pediatrics in the community instead of in hospitals. Yet community pediatrics is regarded as having 'lesser status' than pediatrics in hospitals. Something must be done to resolve this problem," Gross said.

Leventhal, who is also director of Hadassah's institute of infant nutrition, noted that the aim of the congress was to look ahead into the 21st century at pediatrics in the Western and developing worlds. The congress was so successful that the American Academy of Pediatrics has decided to hold a joint conference with the Israeli association in two years.

"Molecular biology will have a major impact on how we treat children, as well as in disease prevention," Leventhal added.

"There will be new medications and eventually, widespread gene therapy."

During the past two years alone, 15 new pathogens have been discovered that affect children.

"They were always there, but until recently we couldn't identify them or diagnose the exact causes of the illnesses they produced," he said.

Over the coming years, he said, pediatrics researchers will spend much time developing multiple vaccinations, fighting the grow-

ing resistance of bacteria to antibiotics and coping with a major enemy to health in the developed world: obesity in children due to affluence, sedentary lifestyles and the consumption of junk food.

"There is an explosion of new means for dealing with medical problems; the sky is the limit. But the question is who will pay for all of it, because the cost will be prohibitive," says the Hadassah pediatrician.

"There is an explosion of new means for dealing with medical problems; the sky is the limit. But the question is who will pay for all of it, because the cost will be prohibitive."

- Hadassah pediatrician

University of South Florida College of Medicine in Tampa, an expert in infant formulas, noted that breast-feeding was undoubtedly best. But in the absence of universal nursing, manufacturers have been trying to duplicate the composition of human breast milk in their baby formulas.

"In the course of development of human-milk substitutes, pitfalls have occurred in the process," he said.

There were problems in sterility of the formulas, protein quantity and low carbohydrate content. Vitamins and important minerals like copper were lost in the manufacturing process. Iron had to be added to deal with iron deficiency, and vitamins were added because vitamin absorption was poor. While there are improvements in formulas today, there are still problems, such as the possible connection between cow's milk as a trigger for juvenile-onset diabetes.

"Nutrition of prematurely born infants - regarding both quality and quantity - is an ongoing con-

cern," he said.

Prof. Ronald Gold, a University of Toronto expert, discussed the trend of combining different types of vaccines into one shot. Researchers are considering combining diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine with those against polio, hepatitis B, mumps, measles and rubella.

Combining a number of vaccines has clear benefits, such as the convenience of a single shot, reduced pain for the infant, less parental anxiety, lower cost and improved efficiency for the vaccine program and less need for storage space and packaging. The potential drawbacks include immunological reactions among the various vaccines, increased rates of adverse reactions, higher per-dose cost, unnecessary doses of some components and more difficulty in determining the cause of a severe local reaction.

The question of whether to use whole-cell or acellular vaccine against pertussis (whooping cough) was discussed by Prof. Michael Decker of Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. The whole-cell vaccine contains killed organisms; it has been very effective in reducing significantly the number of pertussis cases and deaths, but unpleasant side effects are common, and serious side effects, such as high fever, seizures and prolonged crying, occur in one out of 100 to one out of 2,000 cases. Researchers have thus been working on an acellular vaccine that doesn't contain the killed whole bacterial cells.

These have been shown to cause less-frequent and less-severe reactions and to be very protective, but they are more expensive than whole-cell vaccine. The US is expected to adopt acellular pertussis vaccines in a year or two. The matter hasn't yet been discussed here, but it will be during the coming school year, according to Health Ministry chief epidemiologist Dr. Paul Slater.



A disabled young man and his hamster at the Herzliya Medical Center.

Pets join medical team

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

In a split second, a reckless driver ran over a Jewish-studies professor jogging near his home, severely damaging a major center in his brain and leaving him with the ability only to shift his eyeballs and slightly move his fingers and toes.

A raven named Gabi, abandoned as a fledgling and herself recovering from a wing injury, is - with the help of the 55-year-old professor's dedicated therapist - helping him to restore some of his abilities and regain some independence.

"When I wheeled Martin into a previous hospital, staffers said: 'Why did you bring us a dead body?'" recalls Dvora, his vivacious wife and mother of their 10 children, who is imbued with faith in God and her husband's prospects of improving.

Martin was first treated for his physical injuries after the 23-year-old driver hit him last year while speeding through a side road at 80 km/h. Then he was moved to another institution for rehabilitation.

For the past several months, he has been hospitalized at the Herzliya Medical Center, where he is one of six severely disabled patients undergoing rehabilitation with the help of pets.

FRIEDA PILLERSDORF, who studied art and taught illiterate soldiers during her military service, studied alternative communications at the Hebrew University and joined the HMC staff nine years ago. Her idea to use animals as a trigger for rehabilitation was born by chance. Nineteen-year-old Barak Gavriel, who three years ago suffered a massive head injury when a car went through a red light and hit his motorcycle, was lying comatose in his bed in the Herzliya Pithah hospital. Sitting next to him, Barak's father Shalom noticed that a baby bird had crashed onto the window sill and fallen to the ground. He ran out to bring the bird to his son.

"Look, Barak, what an unfortunate bird," said the father. "Incredibly, after nearly three years

in a coma, Barak - a bird lover since childhood - turned his head and followed the bird with his eyes.

Shalom and his wife Yehudit told Pillersdorf about the incredible incident, and Pillersdorf decided to try using animals to wake comatose patients and spur the rehabilitation of the severely disabled. HMC management approved her idea, even though there were no scientific reports abroad of pets being utilized for this purpose.

Pillersdorf explains that her experience had taught her that head-injury patients need powerful stimulation to trigger response, and that animals - to which young children respond so well - might do the trick. An Internet search located only reports that animals could reduce tension, provide relief to the mentally ill and improve the emotional condition of the elderly.

"I saw no evidence that pets could be useful for this purpose, but I had nothing to lose," Pillersdorf recalls. Nevertheless, she and patients' relatives have been amazed by the results.

Martin, wearing shorts and a T-shirt, a black kippa and glasses, sits in his wheelchair with a cushion supporting his head. He doesn't make a sound as Frieda asks him if he wants to "feed Gabi," but he moves his eyes up and down in an enthusiastic response.

She goes to a bathroom and brings out the young black-and-gray raven, who amiably perches on Martin's arm and waits to be fed. The therapist pushes the bird's bowl a few centimeters from his hand and urges him to move his arm closer, so Gabi can eat. With great effort, evident from the wrinkling of his brow, Martin brings the raven close enough to eat.

"Kol hakavod, Martin!" exclaims Pillersdorf, who pats him on the back and rubs his arm to encourage him. She then attaches a bell-encrusted bracelet to one of Martin's paralyzed legs and sets Gabi near his toes. Martin strains to command his brain to move his toes, and the bells chime.

After many such painstaking sessions with Martin, the therapist says she aims, with Gabi's help, to give Martin enough control over his fingers to consistently click a switch.

"If he can do that, he'll be able to control a computer, turn on lights, and even produce synthetic speech," she notes, as Dvora nods her head.

FRIEDA HAS used other animals, such as chicks and hamsters, for her work with the disabled. It was a chick that apparently triggered the return to consciousness of Eli Samira, a 17-year-old who was in a coma for two years after being wounded in the terror bombing of a Ramat Gan bus.

"Chicks," explain the therapists, "are very useful because they are small enough to fit in the palm of one's hand, are soft and make chirping noises. Eli suffered from motor problems in which his hands locked shut."

"The first time he held his chick, his momentarily locked, but when he heard it start to cry for help, he immediately released his hold. No squeaking ball that we had tried before had induced him to release his grasp. It was amazing."

"Another time, he started to kiss the chick, but when he started making the motion, his mouth locked shut and we feared he would bite it. But he opened his mouth and let it go." Gerbits could also be used, she says, and even snakes, if patients are not frightened of them.

"Frieda stresses that the role of the animals should not be exaggerated. "This is one part of the rehabilitation that our patients undergo at HMC. My colleagues give physiotherapy, occupation therapy, medications and many other means of support. But the animals provide a different kind of stimulation, and we are pleased by the results. Other professionals here have been very curious and encouraging about my work."

Since she gets the pets from the animal corner at the Kochav Yair settlement not far away, Frieda thought that she would regularly rotate them in her sessions with patients.

"But they became so attached to a certain pet that they refused to give them up. We had to keep bringing the pet they requested and had named."

It would be too difficult to use cats in the hospital project, says Pillersdorf, as they are too large and have a mind of their own. But if she had a large place in natural surroundings, she would like to try dogs, who could be trained to respond to patients' clicking on a buzzer.

"It's hard to explain the response of brain-damaged patients to these animals - it almost seems mystical," she says. "But I have no doubt that it works."

Rx FOR READERS

Be wary of an earful at the pool

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

Is there any way to prevent swimmer's ear - ear infections due to frequent swimming? What causes it? I often have to take antibiotics for this and it drives me crazy. R.S., Ashkelon

Prof. Jona Kronenberg, head of the ear-nose-and-throat department at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer, replies:

You should not be taking antibiotics, unless you are suffering from a bacterial infection of the middle ear. Swimmer's ear is caused by an infection of the outer ear, either fungal or bacterial, and results from the condition of the water or of your skin. If you suffer from eczema of the outer ear, being in the water will lead to swimmer's ear. A lot of chlorine in the pool will irritate the skin, while too little chlorine will increase the bacterial count

and raise the risk of infection. You should stay out of the water for a while while the ear is treated with drops or salves.

At the end of the treatment, when the infection or eczema has cleared up, you're advised to put salve in your outer ear before going swimming and carefully dry it after you get out. Earplugs also are recommended.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax it to (02) 538-9527 or E-mail it to jusie@jpost.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.



The vulnerable ear in mid-stroke

(Yossi Apple)

HEALTH SCAN



The highs and lows of lobe piercing

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

Teenagers who get the upper part of their earlobes pierced to wear earrings are asking for trouble, according to doctors who have studied this subject. Dr. Andre Matalon, who teaches family medicine at Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine, discusses in the *Israel Journal of Family Practice* the danger of bacterial infection in the upper part of the earlobe. Unlike the lower part of the lobe, where the skin covers soft fat, the upper part is composed of cartilage, which is more susceptible to infection.

The journal *Pediatrics* recently discussed the case of a 14-year-old girl who developed a severe *Staphylococcus* and *Pseudomonas* infection of her earlobe after undergoing piercing. Powerful antibiotics were helpless against the onslaught. Another adolescent girl, aged 16, developed a *Pseudomonas* infection and an abscess as a result of upper-lobe piercing and had to have intravenous antibiotics. Both girls were left with deformations of their earlobes.

Matalon notes that piercing can cause more problems in summer due to swimming and excessive perspiration. Even wearing an earring in the lower part of the lobe can cause infection, but at least this does not result in deformation of the lobe, he notes. Doctors should warn their young patients about the risks of inserting rings in

the "hard" parts of the earlobe, he concludes.

POLKA-DOT PILLS FOR MEASLES?

Believe it or not, the colors of the pills people take affect their perception of the medication's effectiveness. A study reported recently in the *British Medical Journal* and also commented on in the *Israel Journal of Family Practice* discussed this phenomenon.

The researcher, AJM De Craen, wanted to see if the colors of pills had any effect on patients. Red, he hypothesized, is regarded as strong and active, while blue and green are regarded as restful and "good."

According to the findings, most patients perceived red-, yellow- and orange-colored pills as being stimulants; blue- and green-colored pills were seen as relaxants.

The hues also were seen as signaling that the pills were good for certain parts of the body: white for the body in general (but weakly), gray and beige for skin problems and red and black for serious conditions.

When sleeping pills and a placebo were given to patients, those who got blue ones fell asleep much faster than those who received orange

ones, whether they were the real thing or only harmless sugar pills.

PELVIC-FLOOR EXERCISES

Women can exercise their pelvic-floor muscles to treat and even prevent leakages of urine called stress incontinence. For years, urologists and gynecologists have suggested Kegel exercises for this purpose, especially before and after childbirth and menopause. But since women must get the feel for exactly which muscles these involve (usually by halting the flow when urinating), it has been difficult to teach and to practise.

Now a local company, Filatel (177-022-5747), is importing a set of vaginal weights called Femtone that, if used properly, can strengthen the relevant muscles.

The NIS 300 patented device, developed by the US firm Convatec (a subsidiary of Bristol-Myers), consists of five plastic capsules, each of a different weight and attached to a string. The user inserts it into her vagina and must hold it in by contracting the relevant muscles. As she finds the lighter weight easy to bear, she can move on to a heavier one. All that is needed is 15 minutes of exercise several times a week.

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BOOK REVIEW



Barbra Streisand, a star since she was 22



Bogey debuted on Broadway as a Japanese butler

From Barbra to Bogie: Biographies of the stars

By RON BERTHEL

Barbra, Madonna and Rosie Bogie, Sinbad and Judy. These are stars so big that only one name is needed. They now share another trait: Each is spotlighted in one of several new books.

The latest biography of the pop-music diva is *Streisand* (Little, Brown, \$24.95) by Anne Edwards, a celebrity biographer whose subjects have included Vivien Leigh, Shirley Temple, Judy Garland and Katharine Hepburn.

This thick work — 600 pages, including notes, index and photos — relies on more than 140 interviews with Streisand's family, friends and foes. It traces her life and career, from a modest childhood in Brooklyn to Broadway stardom at 22, and on to triumphs in records, television and films, both before and behind the camera.

The book examines her private life through marriage, motherhood, divorce and political activism, and her roster of romantic interests, including Omar Sharif, Don Johnson and, most recently, James Brolin.

There are many Barbaras but there's only one Barbra.

Plenty of famous names have been linked with Streisand throughout her career, but one of the dearest people, according to Edwards, is someone the public knows little about: her goddaughter, Carleigh. According to Edwards, the adopted daughter of

ex-lover Jon Peters is "the daughter (Streisand) would have wanted to have."

THE MATERIAL Girl and the Queen of Nice — Madonna and Rosie O'Donnell, who were teammates in the baseball film *A League of Their Own* — are now in the same literary lineup.

In *Madonna: The Rolling Stone Files* (Hyperion, \$13.95, paperback original), the editors of *Rolling Stone* magazine have assembled a series of articles that trace the life and career of the Catholic schoolgirl who went on to be the author of the sizzling coffee-table book, *Sex*.

The collection's reviews, interviews, feature stories and briefs not only chronicle Madonna's rise to stardom but also touch on her personal life: her mother's death when Madonna was six, her failed marriage to Sean Penn, motherhood and her relationship with *Dick Tracy* costar Warren Beatty. Included are lists of Madonna's work in recordings, films and videos.

In one of the many random notes scattered throughout the book, Madonna replies to a question posed in 1991 about her relationship with Michael Jackson: "We exchange powder puffs, we powder each other's ooses, and we compare bank accounts."

And if you thought you knew all there is to know about Madonna, consider this: Interviewer Carrie Fisher discovered one of Madonna's nicknames is Daisy, and that Penn had the name tattooed to a toe "so none of his girlfriends can see it unless they're really inspecting him," says the onetime Mrs. Penn.

Billed as the "first" biography of O'Donnell is *Rosie* (Carroll and Graf, \$23), James Robert

Parish's book about the stand-up comic who has taken a seat behind the desk of her hugely popular daytime TV talk show.

The book delves into O'Donnell's personal life, including her troubled relationship with her father, the early death of her mother, and O'Donnell's role as an adoptive single parent. Her career is traced from her early days in comedy clubs, through film appearances and a Broadway role in *Grease*, to her current gig pioneering antirash television.

OPRAH WINFREY calls him "the funniest man on the planet." He describes himself as a "6-foot-5 black comedian with red hair and a high butt." He's Sinbad, and he offers his comic observations in *Sinbad's Guide to Life (Because I Know Everything)* (Bantam, \$22.95), written with David Ritz.

Sinbad's knowledge is based on a life in which, he writes, he "has walked in every man's shoes."

He admits he's "dropped out of college ... [been] booted out of the Air Force" and failed at marriage. But at least he is "not in recovery" and has "never been naked in a hot tub [at least there's no pictures of it]."

ON THE 40th anniversary of the death of Humphrey Bogart comes *Bogart: A Life in Hollywood* (Houghton Mifflin, \$30).

Jeffrey Meyers, who has penned portraits of Hemingway, Poe, F. Scott Fitzgerald and others, profiles the Hollywood legend and his rise from baby-food model to Hollywood tough guy. Along the way, in a remarkable bit of casting, there's Bogie's Broadway beginnings as a Japanese butler.

His life was not a rags-to-riches story. He came from an affluent

New York family headed by a father who was a prominent society physician and a mother who was a successful commercial artist. The book includes source notes, bibliography, stage and screen appearances, and index.

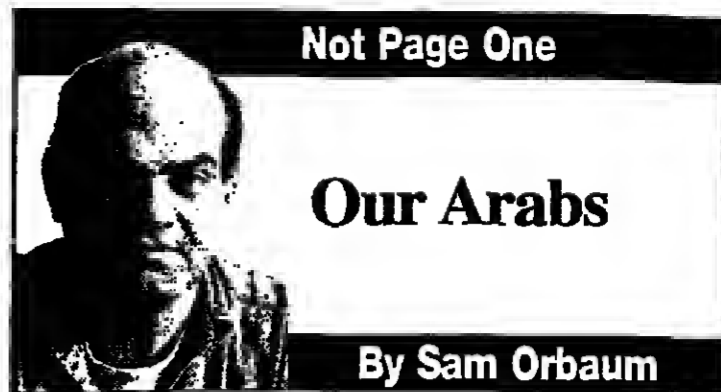
Move the floor lamp closer to the coffee table and create an ideal stage for Judy: *A Life in Pictures* (Metrobooks, \$12.98) by Basil Nestor. This large-format, generously illustrated book highlights the life and career of Judy

Garland, nee Frances Gumm, who captured the hearts of America's filmgoers as the teenage Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*.

The film introduced what came to be Garland's trademark song, *Over the Rainbow*. According to Nestor, MGM executives almost cut the song from the film. *Wizard* wouldn't have been the same without it. Perhaps the same could be said for Judy. (AP)



Madonna: Exchanged powder puffs with Michael Jackson



Not Page One

Our Arabs

By Sam Orbaum

You'd expect them to be hurling rotten tomatoes at each other — at best. At worst, stones, fists, venomous invective.

Mahaneh Yehuda, the warren of onions, pickles and arch-Jewish sentiment, the bastion of hot-tempered nationalist passion, is no place for an Arab. Not ever, but certainly not days after the slaughter, when the smell of charred human flesh still mingles with the hovering aroma of raw animal flesh.

It's utterly senseless: out the war — the peace. The Arabs who work here are not afraid of Jews, but of other Arabs; the Jews who work here don't think of "their" Arabs as Arabs.

"Go basta-basta (stall to stall), you see Arabs working everywhere here," says Dan, purveyor of eukes, tomatoes, potatoes. "Yeah, of course I got an Arab. He's a good worker. Yalla, Mohammed, come!"

Mohammed, a round little 15-year-old, has at least one thing in common with Jewish teenagers — pimples. He also has a plate in his head, which Ilan, the stall-owner next door, playfully whaps every few minutes. I suppose to make the thing rattle. Mohammed helps support his family in the Old City — Dad and his four wives and 24 children.

"Arab workers here are free. The shuk is like our home. We're not afraid. My father's afraid, but not me."

Moments after the double bombing, police ordered Mohammed to go home. He stayed away for a week.

"I missed him," Dan says. "We

shouts have stilled. The rhythmic clamor that makes the souk what it is — "Three for a shekel, I must be crazy!" — is decidedly inappropriate these days. So Mohammed, the egg kid, sits, waits. His ears still ring from the blast, across the alley: he happened to duck at the right time.

"There is peace here. Arabs and Jews, you know, we all helped each other."

Mohammed is a startlingly handsome youth with big, soft brown eyes, dimples, alluring smile. His brother owns this stall, one of the few Arab-owned bastions in Mahaneh Yehuda.

"Sometimes," he says, "people say things against Arabs, and it hurts me to hear it. But the people who work here, they're OK. We're brothers."

He hasn't been working here long enough to be recognized — only two months — but he was unafraid. He took up his position behind the stacks of eggs the next day.

Next door, Eliahu sat stone-still behind pretty pastel-colored mounds of spices. He seemed on the verge of bursting into tears, but he spoke without a trace of passion.

"When you work with people, you don't ask about their politics, their opinions. Arabs, Jews ... we know each other as people, just people."

"Even when we shout 'Arabs out!' they understand we don't mean them, we're not shouting at them."

A lady stops at his display and asks if the paprika is fresh. "It's fresh. You can be sure, lady, everything is fresh: our entire stock was

'Afraid? I stayed. People shouted, "Daoud, go home!" But this is our place too, so I stayed.'

eat together. You know, people don't understand what we're like here in the souk. We're not racist. No one who works here is racist."

"Anyone who likes Arabs is not a Jew," Ilan retorts, provoking Mohammed. The lad chuckles happily: he seems not to enjoy the teasing; he seems not to take the barbs as hatred.

And maybe it's not. Street language has its own inflections. On these streets, Dan doesn't consider Ilan racist, Ilan doesn't think of Mohammed as an Arab, Mohammed likes Ilan. Who can judge?

At the fishmonger nearby, glowering, bearded Mahmud wields a fearful-looking hatcher's knife. "Stoppers are afraid of me. You think I care?"

Unlike shy little Muhammed, Mahmud is forthright, even aggressive. "But people who work here, they know me. What, you think they shout bad things to me? They say 'Mahmud, how are you today?'" He attacks a pile of fish, aware but unconcerned that he's splashing fish guts on my shirt. "Yeah, all Arabs are guilty!" And finally, he smiles.

His employer, Avner, has the look of a stunned muller. It's easy to understand why: he stares straight ahead, but out the corner of each eye he can see the carnage inflicted by both bombs. "I was a sandwich," he says.

His friends and neighbors dead and maimed, and he, blessedly lucky to be standing here selling fish: well, Avner, what do you think of the Arabs now?

"You must understand, we don't hate our Arabs."

10 better days, 16-year-old Mohammed would have been hurling shoppers with a singsong "Eggs, yalla, eggs, yalla, eggs!" But those familiarly lusty, jocund

thrown out after the bomb."

Daoud, a strapping, handsome 23-year-old who's worked here for the past decade, is sufficiently confident in this environment that he speaks Arabic, loudly. He fingered his beards absentmindedly. "Nobody here is against Arabs."

What's strange is that, even where there is hate, it's an almost hatless hate.

Johnny says he hates Arabs. "I am an extremist. I'm more extreme than Kahane, much more extreme. I believe Arabs should be killed as soon as they're born. We mustn't show we're afraid of them, we can't show fear. I'm not ashamed to say I'm an extremist, that we should kill all the Arabs."

Adel doesn't bat an eyelash. His boss is saying that he, his family, his friends, and all of his people should be piled up like the dead chickens filling their shop, but Adel understands. He smiles.

It's a smile utterly puzzling — placidly demure, maddeningly naive — as if Johnny had just said what a fine boy was he.

Adel, eager, bright and friendly, has been working for Johnny for 10 years, since he was 13. And yes, he's allowed to work with the frightfully sharp knife that could slice the throat of a bird but a fulminating hater.

I wasn't sure I heard Johnny correctly, or that Adel had, or perhaps he was joking. But we had, and he wasn't.

Adel was arrested after the bombing; but he's not angry. He says some Arabs were beaten. He's a bit afraid, but not enough to stay away. He says that "the people who did this are heartless"; but he doesn't hate them. He says he knows how Johnny feels about his people; but he doesn't hate him either.

"I love him. I love everyone."

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli shares in New York with columns for Last and Change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

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WALL STREET REPORT

Dow plummets

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow Jones Industrial Average sank more than 247 points on Friday as computer-driven selling and fears that the bull market has overvalued stocks sent prices spiraling.

WALL STREET WEEK

Worries about profits caused market drop

NEW YORK (AP) - As the US stock market dropped sharply on Friday, fingers pointed in several directions: expiring options contracts, the upcoming Federal Reserve meeting and, perhaps most fearfully, the possibility of lower corporate profits.

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DOLLAR CROSS-RATES (US)

Table showing Dollar Cross-Rates (US) with columns for Last and Change.

US COMMODITIES

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LONDON METAL FIXES

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SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

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NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

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PARIS

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FRANKFURT

Table showing Frankfurt market data with columns for Last and Change.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table showing Israeli Money Markets with columns for Last and Change.

CURRENCY REPORT

Dollar sinks to five-week low vs. mark

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar fell to its lowest level in nearly five weeks versus the German mark Friday, pummeled by speculation of higher German interest rates and thin trading that exaggerated the currency's movements.

The dollar fell slightly against the yen as traders looked ahead to Japanese trade numbers due next week.

The dollar's fall accelerated as US bond and stock markets sank. Bond prices fell sharply early in the day, but recovered most of their gains by the afternoon.

Johann Wilhelm Gaddum, vice president of Germany's Bundesbank, hinted late Thursday that the central bank would allow a key interest rate to float with the market.

Readers who wish to report missing or misquoted data should do so on postcards only, addressed to Jerusalem Post Business Desk, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS. Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96). Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (15.8.97)

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CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Offenbach's charming opera La Grande Duchesse is tonight's offering of the Israel Vocal Arts Institute summer opera program...

TELEVISION

CALEV BEN-DAVID

Although the directorial chores of True Romance (Channel 2 at 11:48 tonight) were handled by the slick Tony (Top Gun) Scott, it is screenwriter Quentin Tarantino's hand...



See the world from a bug's-eye view in the movie 'Microcosmos.'

policed effectively by a few deputized mortals in a gas-guzzling Plymouth. But the agents do what they can to keep the peace, and their actions come to seem logical in a loopy, deadpan way...

*** MICROCOSMOS *** This small nature documentary focuses in amazing close-up on the insects, flowers, frogs, and birds in and around a French field. Aside from a few expository sentences...

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** MEN IN BLACK *** Barry Sonnenfeld's playfully off-beat parody of the Martian-movie genre stars Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith as nattily dressed officers...

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Cartoons
10:00 Eric's World
10:30 The Intrepid
11:00 Master of Time
11:25 Hail Science
12:10 A.J. Time Traveller

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Zappy Wave
15:33 Denver, the Last Dictator
15:30 Super Ben
16:00 Heartbreak High
16:45 Super Ben
16:59 A New Evening
17:34 Zappy Wave
18:10 Super Ben
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Amal and Karama Studio
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

18:30 News flash
19:31 Home Improvement
20:00 News
20:45 A Second Look
21:30 World Soccer
22:30 Rhoads - part 6
23:00 News in the Jordan

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's programs
6:30 Rainbow Children
6:50 This Morning
7:00 News
7:25 Seneca
10:49 Ake in Wonderland
11:42 Enchanted Journey
12:00 Jerry and the Captain
13:00 Pletius
13:30 News in Russian
13:30 News in English
13:30 News in Arabic
13:30 News in Russian
13:30 News in English
13:30 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's programs
6:30 Rainbow Children
6:50 This Morning
7:00 News
7:25 Seneca
10:49 Ake in Wonderland
11:42 Enchanted Journey
12:00 Jerry and the Captain
13:00 Pletius
13:30 News in Russian
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13:30 News in Arabic
13:30 News in Russian
13:30 News in English
13:30 News in Arabic

JORDAN TV

14:00 Holy Koran

TV

14:10 Cartoons
15:00 Energy Express
15:00 American Chart Show

MOVIE CHANNEL

11:30 Two Solitudes (1977) - Canadian drama about the turn-of-the-century rift between English and French...

MIDDLE EAST TV

10:30 Changed Lives
11:00 Ministry
11:30 Hour of Power
12:30 Central Message
13:00 Love Worth Fighting For

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 News
16:15 Playing With Fire
17:00 The Yellow Column
17:00 The Yellow Column
17:00 News in Arabic
17:00 News in Arabic
17:00 News in Arabic

ETV 2 (22)

15:30 Jake and the Kid
16:00 News
17:10 A.J. Time Traveller (pt)
18:00 Cybernews
18:30 Living in the Past
18:30 Through Our Eyes
18:30 Vis & Vis

FAMILY CHANNEL

6:00 News
6:30 News
7:00 News
7:30 News
8:00 News
8:30 News
9:00 News
9:30 News
10:00 News
10:30 News
11:00 News
11:30 News
12:00 News

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10:00 News
10:30 News
11:00 News
11:30 News
12:00 News

PRIME TIME TV

Table listing TV programs for Prime Time TV, including News, A Second Look, World Soccer, Rhoads, and others.

MOVIES

Table listing movies for Prime Time TV, including The Hunted, The Last of the Mohicans, and others.

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Military punishment that causes exhaustion (8). 5 Somewhat somber (6). 9 Want a little time (8). 12 Simply like one in a cathedral city (6). 13 Reserve needed when the doubles match is equal (3,5). 15 Very distressed if tins are battered (2,5). 16 UK airline about to reveal all (4). 20 Fellow returning from old Persian kingdom (4). 21 Good news for Welshman and society girl (7). 25 Top 'tec goes to precise locality (8). 26 Menial goes to work (6). 28 Walk round in the house to get healthy (4,2). 29 Used to be a seducer, the monster (8). 30 Snigger when sober man gets into a row (6). 31 Court awards fortune to railway (8). DOWN: 1 One who loses weight more quickly (6). 2 Aims to reform Chinese religion (6). 3 Manage to live in harmony (3,5). 4 Therefore made East-End woman leave (4). 6 Please ask for support (6). 7 Labourer and I excel, despite disadvantage (8). 8 Army corps thought to have cussed in (8). 11 Man on a phone is a trial (7). 14 Benefit from having a set of crockery (7). 17 Ammunition makes cables very warm (4,4). 18 Travel warrant gives secretaries amusement (8). 19 Entities constituents to make themselves at home (6,2). 22 Body-blow for British unit in employment (6). 23 Matruen got up in sullen mood (6). 24 Blew one's top when given clearance for take-off (3,3). 27 Prepared Henry as Abel's replacement (4). JORDAN TV: 14:00 Holy Koran.

SOLUTIONS

A crossword puzzle grid with some letters filled in.

Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Polly, 4 Maths, 10 Christmas, 11 Tanks, 13 Tarsi, 18 Trucking, 18 Year, 17 Ailes, 19 Islet, 20 Oscar, 20 Bondage, 27 Cairo, 28 Treaty, 29 Reigned, 31 Start, 23 Suez. DOWN: 2 Oscar, 3 Laddies, 5 Asha, 6 Bessie, 7 Acute, 8 Datta, 9 Diego, 14 Uta, 16 Bang, 18 Louisa, 20 Section, 21 Abate, 23 Nears, 24 Lorda, 26 Adder, 28 Inman.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 4 Back up (6). 5 Quote (4). 7 Whacked (7). 10 Ghanaian capital (5). 11 Allegory (7). 12 Theatre attendant (5). 14 Embodiment (7). 15 Money pouch (5). 16 Insurance fee (7). 20 French novelist (5). 21 Attempted (7). 22 Abominable Snowman (4). 23 Writing desk (6). 1 Rascal (5). 2 Deduce (6). 3 See (7). 4 London district (4). 6 Deserved (6). 8 Poor people (7). 9 Hours of light (7). 10 Former student (7). 13 Portent (6). 14 Coarse grass (7). 17 Children (5). 18 Creator (5). 19 Bill of fare (4).

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NEWS

in brief

Turkey, Israel, US to hold joint maneuvers'

ANKARA, Turkey — Navy exercises involving Israel, Turkey and the United States are planned for October, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said Friday.

A foreign ministry spokesman would neither confirm nor deny the report, which quoted diplomatic sources.

The maneuvers could set off criticism from Arab countries already concerned about the growing Israeli-Turkish alliance.

Turkey says that the exercises aren't aimed against any country. The maneuvers will focus on search and rescue practice in case of accidents or natural disasters. **AP**

Zak gave Hussein copy of his book

During Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's summit with King Hussein in Akaba last Wednesday, veteran Israeli journalist Moshe Zak, a contributor to The Jerusalem Post, presented a copy of his new book entitled, Hussein Makes Peace, to the Jordanian monarch.

Zak gave Hussein the book's Hebrew edition, published by Bar-Ilan University's BESA Institute, and a chapter published in English by London's Israel Affairs magazine.

"It was a pleasure meeting you," Hussein told Zak. "Please come to see me again."

The book reveals the secret contacts Hussein held with Israeli leaders over three decades before the 1994 peace treaty. **Jay Bushinsky**

Antiquities Authority: Wakf construction illegal

The Wakf is carrying out illegal construction on the Temple Mount, Antiquities Authority head Amir Drori said on Friday. With donations and volunteer labor, the Wakf is repaving the area above Solomon's Stables, he said. There were problems last winter there with dampness and leaks. Instead of stopping the construction outright, Drori suggested that the government prevent the construction material from being brought into the area and bar volunteer laborers with Israeli citizenship from the Temple Mount. **Itim**

Dig begins at Tel e-Safi today

A team of Bar-Ilan and Hebrew University archeologists hopes to uncover ancient Philistine remains and a 12th-century Crusader fortress in excavations that begin at Tel e-Safi today.

Tel e-Safi is identified as ancient Gath, one of the five cities of the Philistines, and is situated in the Elish Valley, not far from Kibbutz Kfar Menahem. It was settled from as early as the fifth millennium BCE until 1948, when an Arab village there was abandoned. **Jerusalem Post Staff**

Shahak: Army service motivation is up

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

In recent months, there have been signs of increased motivation to serve in the army, thanks to educational efforts by the IDF and the Education Ministry, according to Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

In a brochure entitled "Challenges Facing Youth in the State of Israel's 50th Year," published by the ministry and sent to all schools prior to the opening of the school year, Shahak wrote: "In the most recent draft we have seen very encouraging signs of changes in motivation and, if they continue, we can even speak of a radical change for the good." The educational efforts have led the youth "to understand and respond, and respond correctly," he wrote.

Shahak said the major motivational problems were now with reservists, "but here too we are seeing a very welcome change in

public behavior."

Writing in the same brochure, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said the nation has "wonderful young people" who should be given a chance to establish their own values, add to them and formulate them with the help of adults.

Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell wrote in the brochure that the problem with those accused of lack of motivation is sometimes in their homes. He said parents sometimes ask their children: "Why should you volunteer?" thereby undermining their willingness to do so.

OC Manpower Maj.-Gen. Gideon Sheffer agreed, saying motivation "starts with one's parents."

An Education Ministry team is soon to make recommendations to Hammer on how to best encourage motivation among youngsters to perform meaningful service in the IDF.

Moonie-linked conference is on

By LARRY DERFNER

The College of Judea and Samaria will host, as planned, a conference on Jewish identity this week, even though the conference's financial sponsors are the Moonies — followers of the Christian missionary cult leader, Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

"I feel uncomfortable, a little unpleasant about it," acknowledged Dr. Ya'acov Eshel, director of the college's research institute, which sets up the conferences on the campus in Ariel.

Eshel said he learned about a week ago from Jewish anti-cult activists in the US that the sponsor of the conference, the Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace, was connected to Moon.

Moon's organization has been found to use coercive psychological tactics to attract and hold followers. Members have total adulation for Moon. Yet Eshel said he decided to go

ahead with the four-day conference, starting tomorrow and titled "Contemporary Reflections on Jewish Identity," after its co-organizers — two observant Jewish professors from the US — assured him that Moon's group would have no influence on the event.

"They said they were given a completely free hand to shape the conference as they wished, to invite whomever they wanted, and to publish the papers as they saw fit. It has been organized on a purely academic basis," Eshel maintained. He added that to the best of his knowledge nobody from Moon's organization is attending, and missionary activity will not take place.

Most of the 30 or so participants — mainly from the US and Europe, with one or two from Israel — are observant Jews, he noted. They began arriving over the weekend at the hotel in Ariel.

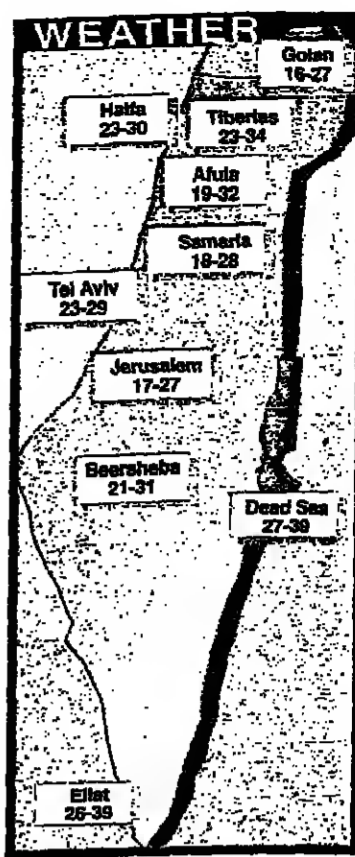
The co-organizers — Charles Selengut, professor of religion at Drew University in New

Jersey, and Jonathan Helfand, professor of Jewish studies at Brooklyn College — did not return calls for interviews.

Eshel said Selengut approached him about the conference about three months ago. "When I saw the name of the sponsor, I thought they might be some sort of 'peaceniks,'" Eshel said. "I asked Selengut if there was any political slant to the conference, and he said no. He said they were completely kosher."

Eshel said the Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace's declared intention is "to promote understanding between religions." He noted that the group has sponsored two previous conferences in Europe addressing issues in religions other than Judaism.

Asked if he would have agreed to host the conference had he known that Moon was sponsoring it, Eshel replied: "I can't say if I would have agreed or not. What I can say is that I would have made further inquiries before deciding."



All hail the king

A statue touted as the world's largest likeness of Elvis Presley was unveiled yesterday at a restaurant in Neveh ilan near Jerusalem to mark the 20th anniversary of the rock star's death. The statue, the work of Israeli sculptor Richard Shiloah, stands five meters high. It towers over a smaller, white statue of Elvis that has stood outside the restaurant for years. (Photo: Sharon Alshady; Text: AP)

Swiss commission appeals for wartime witnesses

BERN, Switzerland (AP) — An international commission investigating Switzerland's war-time dealings with Nazi Germany has appealed for witnesses to help shed more light on the past.

It called on anyone with information — such as bank employees, civil servants, railway staff, and refugee workers, or anyone who had contact with foreigners — to get in touch.

The independent commission, headed by Swiss historian Jean-Francois Bergier, was set up last December following international pressure.

It is meant to investigate charges that neutral Switzerland collaborated with the Nazis on a massive scale, laundered looted gold, and was a transit point for slave labor and Jews headed for concentration camps.

A huge amount of historical archives already exist. But for decades the official view was that tiny Switzerland avoided invasion by a live 155 millimeter artillery shell.

The shell was brought to the desert watering place about two years ago by a friend who found it on a nearby army training ground, Rimon said on Friday.

The rest stop, which has a gas station and a restaurant, is popular with travelers on their way to Eilat. But this week, one visitor noticed that the shell — standing in the middle of Rimon's billiard room — was armed.

Not wanting to cause a panic, he photographed it from all angles and took the pictures to the police, who ordered Kushi to evacuate the entire site immediately.

A bomb squad took the shell over the nearest hill and detonated it by remote control. (AP)

Winning cards

In Friday's Chance drawing, the winning cards were the queen of spades, king of hearts, 10 of diamonds and 10 of clubs.

Live shell on display at rest stop

Kushi Rimon's rest stop in the South has all sorts of weird attractions: a motorcycle with a skeleton rider; a megalere with a full-grown tiger; and — until last week — a live 155 millimeter artillery shell.

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Volcker under fire for sitting on Nestle board

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Paul Volcker, the head of the Jewish-Swiss committee that is overseeing the audit of Swiss banks, has come under fire from lawyers suing the banks because he sits on the board of the Swiss conglomerate Nestle, along with banking officials.

The counsel for the Volcker Committee, formed by the World Jewish Restitution Organization and the Swiss Bankers Association, on Friday dismissed any suggestion of impropriety.

"It's long been known by everyone involved that Paul Volcker has been a member of the Nestle board," the committee's counsel, Michael Bradfield, told The Jerusalem Post on Friday. "It has nothing to do with the [committee's] investigation and only distracts from the important work that the committee has to do — to find the accounts of victims of Nazi persecution."

The other 14 directors of Nestle — which owns a significant percentage of Osem — include Robert Studer, the chairman of the Union Bank of Switzerland; Rainer Gut, chairman of Credit Suisse; and Georges Blum, chairman of the Swiss Bank Corporation. Their banks are being audited by the Volcker Committee and also are defendants in three class-action lawsuits filed in US federal court by Holocaust survivors.

"Mr. Volcker's presence on the Nestle board raises a lot of questions as to his ability to remain impartial in these highly sensitive

proceedings," lawyer Mel Urbach said, the weekly Forward reported in Friday's editions.

Urbach represents the World Council of Orthodox Jewish Communities, a haredi coalition of primarily Satmar Hassidim that filed the third suit.

The lawsuits indirectly are related to the Volcker Committee's audit of Holocaust-era assets in Swiss banks. The suits, which were filed several months after the committee was formed, inherently challenged the mandate of the committee, on the grounds that it is too narrow.

The suits also questioned the legitimacy of the WJRO and the World Jewish Congress to represent Jewish interests.

The World Council also has accused the WJRO of misrepresenting survivors' claims, and last April issued a summons for the WJRO to face a *bet din* (religious court) in Brooklyn, with the intent of having the WJRO cease all "unauthorized" activities.

A federal judge is now deciding whether to allow the suits against the banks to proceed. Lawyers representing the Swiss banks have argued that the suits should be dismissed, contending that they duplicate the work of the Volcker Committee. Volcker also has come out against the suits, saying they could cripple his committee's ability to do its job.

In addition to conducting an audit, the committee is in the midst of forming a "claims adjudication panel" to resolve claims for dormant assets in Swiss banks.

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